Dr Moore

Dear Sir

In my last I stated that a favorable answer had been received from the proper authorities here, and I am now in consequence daily prosecuting my practise in the art of assaying by the humid mode, which is remarkable for delicacy, simplicity and the neatness and comfort of the operation

My labour is much lightened by full descriptions accompanied by engravings of the fixtures that are used, as well as the arrangement of the Capellation furnaces and all the matter appertaining to assays, being published and sold at the Mint, these and other works I have purchased as of sufficient value to warrant the expenditure of 98 francs 50 centimes

The apparatus for the humid process is also made in the Mint and the cost is 600 francs two months will be required for its construction the arrangement is of the most ingenious description, and is from the same prolific source Mr D'arcet whom we must so often quote.

The cost of Assay scales one of the objects of enquiry entrusted to me, I have answered in a letter which will arrive at the same time as this to Mr Jacob Eckfeldt. They are certainly of the best construction that I have yet seen, how they may compare with those of England I cannot yet determine, but these are certainly very delicate and well made

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the price from 50 to 600 francs.

I have only to confirm my statements as given in my last relation to the Copper Coinage of France. A fresh coinage to supercede the antient has been requested several times by the officers of the Mint and is much wanted by the community, but the expense has hitherto detered the Minister of Finance from its accomplishment. It would require an expenditure of three millions of francs. It is a mere circulation of convenience and does not appear to be a legal tender to any amount although payments are sometimes made at the bank in this coin. The labourers of the Mint are paid their wages in this medium.

The extent of my opportunities for acquiring information on the subject of parting by sulphuric acid I cannot yet determine Mr D'Arcets absence will prevent for a short time my obtaining certain information my enquiries have been answered as below about which however there is a little uncertainty which my future letters will do away

1st Silver containing only ½ millieme of gold per gramme may be parted with advantage

2d Vessels of Platinum for a moderate establishment would cost about 9 or 10.000 francs

3 In each of these vessels may be treated 20 Killogrammes of Goldish Silver at a time

4 An operation continues 4 hours thus 80 Killogrammes can be treated in one day

5 The cost of an establishment capable of treating

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per annum 2 millions of francs would be about 80000 francs or which in Platinum as well as lead there would be about the value of 60.000 francs.
6 There is in Paris a refinery capable of separating 1.000.000 frs of gold & silver in twenty four hours. I had written thus much for the last packet but lost its opportunity by the 14th day falling on Sunday which therefore anticipated the time. Since then I received yours of the 15th of June. I regret to inform you that the information that you have received from Mr Dixon is true the charge for instruction in this art in the large refinery above noticed is enormous no less than 50 000 francs. this charge is evidently based on the supposition that I am a government agent who has funds of a lavish extent, its excess is qualified by the promise of drawings. patterns and thorough instruction and no responsibility.
The other information contained in your letter has with the advice of Mr Harris induced me to remain here in the prosecution of my observations and labour in the mint of france until I receive your next. in the mean time I shall see Mr Dr Arcet who will be in town on the 20th of this month and from him ascertain what other establishments there are and what the terms upon which I can be admitted & then proceed to London, to make the necessary enquiries and if possible to obtain a footing there in order to prevent the additional expense

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of a voyage to Russia I must of course leave the prosecution of my observations in France untill this matter is settled and if successful I will return here immediately if not, I must be governed by your next as to further movements.

Other offers have been made of the following character a competent person who has owned and conducted an establishment here is willing to go to America to establish a parting laboratory, he would require 20 000 francs and his expenses as compensation

The matter of Platinum vessels Mr Briant would purchase the establishment of the person above noticed but would require a compensation also.

In all that is not connected with the government establishment I have found this inclination to extort. I need scarcely inform you that I have not nor shall not yield to this inclination want of principle and liberality

"The Commissaire du Roi" who is at the head of the French Mint has answered to the enquiries which I addressed him since your last as follows

There is a great quantity of coin used in the arts but that they have no means of judging of the amount It is considered as merchandise and the owners can use it as they please, there being no law to prevent it nor any method of controlling its loss from this cause.

The political changes in France have been so

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so frequent that there are with very few ex=
ceptions no old or smooth Coin in Circulation
the Coin passes by tale alone, and is received
in payments for its nominal value whilever a
mark remains visible upon it when the
device is worn off it is remelted it does
not appear that they have any law on this
subject.

The exception alluded to above is the
antient six franc piece called "Écus de Six
Livres" they are now worth ~~eighty~~ 5 francs, 80 Centimes

There is not much to be gained in the mechan=
ical department of the Mint of France, the
rolling is performed by old and bad rollers
driven by horse power, they have no draw=
ing bench, and the planchets are individ=
ually scraped by a Machine to the required
weight and are individually weighed

The letters on the edge are however put on
at the same time that the Coin is struck. by
an ingenious arrangement that has been in
use about three years. I am now, in part,
engaged in making a draft of this improve=
ment.

There is also in the Mint a new press on
the bent lever principle which is worked by
a crank. it is found to be too slow prob=
ably from the want of a proper power to
propel it

I have the honour to be
Paris. Most respectfully yours
July 19th 1833

Franklin Peale

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SHIP

To

Doctor Samuel Moore
Director of the Mint
of the United States
Philadelphia

2203

Franklin Peale
July 19. 1833

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